

Dear Hickory Parents,

October finds us well into our school year and all the excitement that goes along with a new school year. Students and teachers are getting to know each other and making new friends. Students are also reviewing our school safety rules and our behavior expectations.

I am pleased that our attendance so far has been exceptional and our tardies kept to a minimum. Remember, it is important to be at school everyday and to be on time. The playground opens at 8:30 so that students can arrive on time, have time to socialize with their friends and prepare for the transition to their school day. While we always welcome parents to our campus, we ask you to allow your children to take advantage of this time in the spirit that it was intended. If you remain outside your child's classroom, or near the playground, they will be reluctant to leave your side. **Our school day begins at 8:50 for many students and all parents are to leave campus at that time, the park gate and the kindergarten gate will be locked at 8:50.** Again, we do this so that your children will be safe and ready to start their day when their bell rings. It is also a way to foster independence and social skills. We want your children to feel that Hickory is a safe place where they have friends and teachers to interact with, if you refuse to leave them, you are sending them a different message. Please support us in this and **either use valet or leave campus at 8:50 when the first bell rings.** Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

In an effort to better use our time, we will only have one bell on Mondays. The bell will ring for all students at 8:50. Those primary students who are on campus will meet their teacher and line up for assembly. Primary students will not be marked tardy if they arrive by 8:59 and join the assembly. We want to keep our Monday morning school assemblies but we also want to honor instructional time. Our goal is to start promptly at or slightly before 9 and to end by 9:20 at the latest. Thank you for your support.

Thank you for supporting our PTA! The membership drive is going strong and our fabulous parents have filled many of the PTA Volunteer positions. Remember your **Direct Donation** covers many of the enrichment programs we have here at Hickory. PTA donations support programs like: Adventures in Art, Primary Music, Kids into Science, Field Trips, assemblies, Walkthroughs for grades 4 &5, library operation, computer lab aide, just to name a few! Your donation means these programs can continue and your children can continue to experience the extra enriching programs that enhance learning!

October 9-10 will be a student free days; teachers will meet to continue their work on the California Common Core Standards and Student Achievement. Teachers will be discussing student performance in Math and Language Arts. Your child's learning and performance is still a priority for all of us at Hickory. We will continue to work hard to ensure your child receives best education possible. This has been, and will continue to be, our commitment to you and your child.

I hope to see MANY of you at the **Skechers Pier to Pier Walk on Oct. 29!!** Register NOW and join the fun!

Mrs. Schumacher, Principal